(b) There are 30,378 No's paid pending applications for pump-sets connection as on 31.3.2009 in Vidarbha region. Out of which 25,370 numbers have completed formalities (*i.e.* submission of test report) and 11,876 numbers of Agricultural Pumps connections have been released so far up to 31st October, 2009. During the current financial year 2009-10 further directives have been issued to the field office to make all afforts to clear all pending cases as on 31.03.2009 in chronological order.

Drip irrigation

1686. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in the countries like Israel where water is scarce, drip irrigation is being used successfully; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not encouraging it in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has already launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation in January 2006 to install drip and sprinkler irrigation systems in the country. The scheme supports the following interventions:-

(i) Assistance @ 50% to all categories of farmers in the ratio of 40:10 shared between Central Government and State Government and remaining 50% is borne by the beneficiary either through his/her own resources or by availing soft loan from financial institution. An area of 8.02 lakh ha. has been achieved under drip irrigation.

(ii) Training and awareness programmes on drip technology for farmers, officials, financial institutions, NGOs and other stake holders.

(iii) Operational research on drip irrigation technology for various crops through 22 Precision Farming Development Centres.

(iv) Integration of drip irrigation with other plasticulture applications/technologies *viz.* greenhouse, mulching, low tunnel etc.

(v) Integration of Macro and Micro Irrigation in canal command area e.g. Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

Impact of climate change on agriculture

1687. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the global climate change and the impact of the resultant high temperature on agriculture;

(b) if so, the likely impact of higher temperature on agriculture, and to what extent the crop yield is expected to be reduced; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to reduce the impact of higher temperature on various aspects of agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Temperature rise studies, conducted so far by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), indicate that rise in temperature in India will affect crops, horticulture, water resources, livestock and fisheries sectors. Studies have also indicated that rise in winter temperature will have negative impact on wheat yield. The cultivation of apples is also shifting to higher elevations in Himachal Pradesh due to rise in temperature. Heat stress will have negative impact on milk yield of livestock. Increased surface sea temperature would cause migration of fish and changes in breeding habitats.

(c) ICAR, Department of Agriculture Research and Education in the Ministry of Agriculture has taken up a National Network Project on Climate Change to conduct research in agriculture and allied sectors for enhancing scientific adaptation and mitigation measures.

Focus on higher production for forthcoming Rabi crops

1688. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had asked Government agencies to focus their attention towards maximizing production from the standing Kharif crop and prepare for additional production and higher productivity during forthcoming Rabi season;

(b) whether according to recent report of the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), use of zero tillage and strip till drills for wheat cultivation in Indo- Gangetic plains which traditionally has low ground water levels can help utilizing residual moisture available after rice harvest; and

(c) if so, to what extent his directive has been considered and to what extent steps taken will help to recoup Kharif losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India have taken several initiatives to increase more coverage of various crops during Rabi, 2009 in order to compensate the losses in kharif season to some extend and also to enhance the productivity. States are provided advisories for contingency crop planning, programmatic intervention such as use of truthful level (TL) seeds for Kharif Season only and additional power to the states. States have been given more flexibility to utilize the funds to meet the additional requirement of seed distribution. Subsidy norms of rice, wheat, jowar, bajra